

MINUTES

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 2011, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Jessica Andrade, Jesse Aspuria, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Merri Ann Osborne, Marty Penner, Mike Peters, Mica Powers, Roslyn Solomon, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioner Regrets: Andrew Lewis, Joshua Marshall, Keith Toussaint

SOCR Staff Present: Felicia Yearwood, Nolan Lim, Julie Nelson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: February 2011 minutes approved as read

Transgender Insurance:

Tiffany Nelson, Seattle LGBT Commission, asked the Seattle Human Rights Commission to sign on to a letter asking the City to remove health insurance exclusions for transgender employees. The executive committee will take the matter under advisement.

Paid Sick Leave Ordinance

Panel Discussion:

- Gabriela Quintana,
Campaign Coordinator, Seattle Healthy Workforce Coalition
- Marilyn Watkins
Policy Director, Economic Opportunity Institute
- Tracy Brazg
Seattle Women's Commission

Panelists explained the consequences of individual workers not having paid sick leave, including working while ill, inability to attend to sick children, and job loss.

MOTION: to join the Healthy Workforce Coalition supporting Paid Sick Days in Seattle. ACTION: PASSED

Police Accountability and DOJ Investigation

Chris Stearns reported that the Department of Justice invited Chris and Roz along with the ACLU and other organizations to participate in a meeting regarding the decision whether or not to conduct an investigation of SPD.

Appeals

Mike Peters and Damien Carter volunteered to participate in a hearing of the *Taylor v. Melton* case with the Hearing Examiner on May 3rd, 2011.

Arrest and Conviction Records Protections

The Law and Policy Assessment Committee distributed informational materials regarding the proposal to add arrest and conviction records as a protected class in the City's civil rights laws. Panelists explained the years long process of working toward the proposal and the impact of discrimination based on arrest and conviction records.

MOTION: to work with elected officials to add protections to the Seattle Municipal Code against refusals to rent and refusals to hire based on arrest and conviction records. ACTION: PASSED

The Commission anticipates a large turnout at the second public forum on arrest and conviction records to be held in City Hall on March 16th 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This forum will be co-sponsored by Council Member Harrell and over twenty community organizations. All Commissioners are urged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.